

Town Council Meeting November 16, 2020

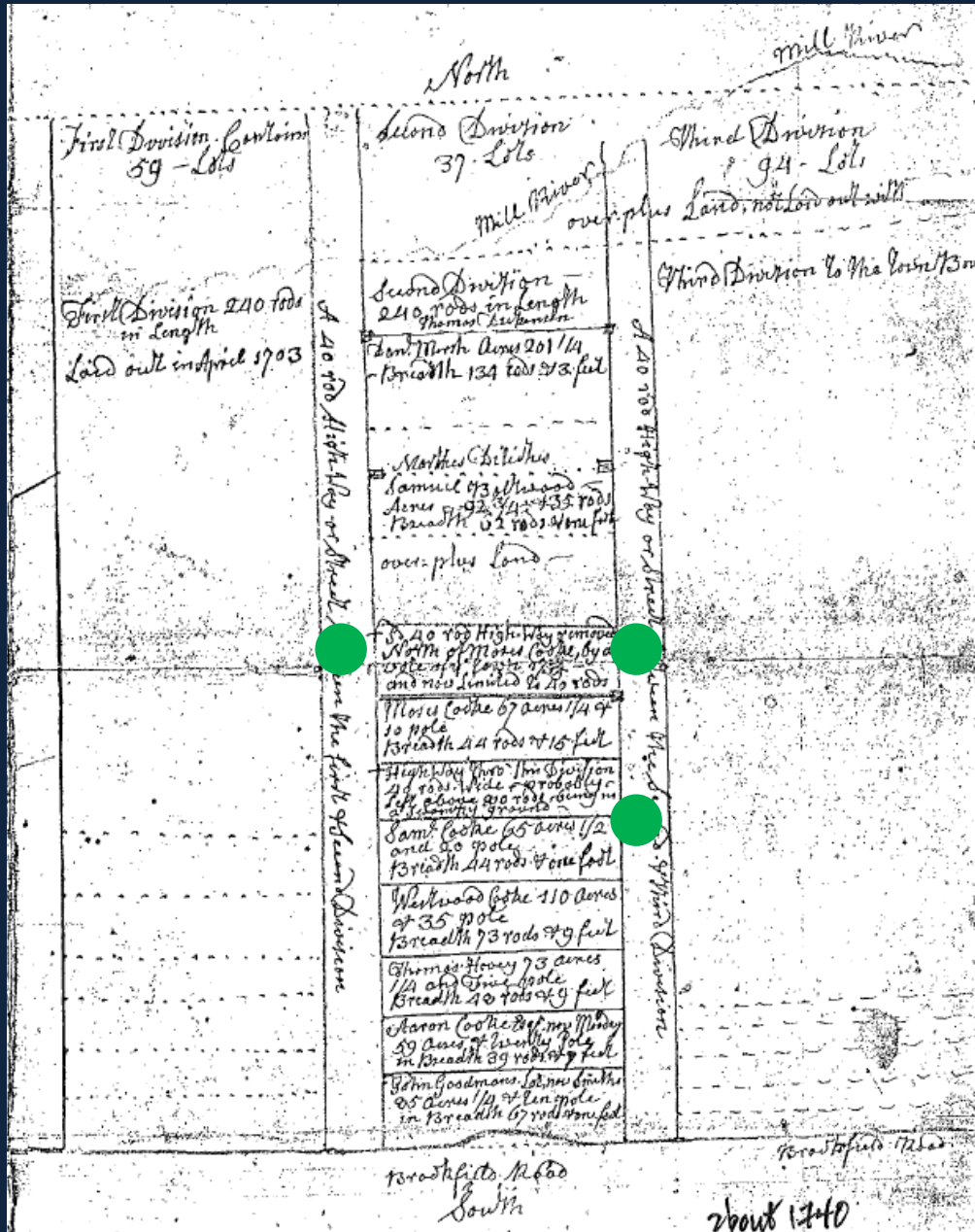


Town of Amherst

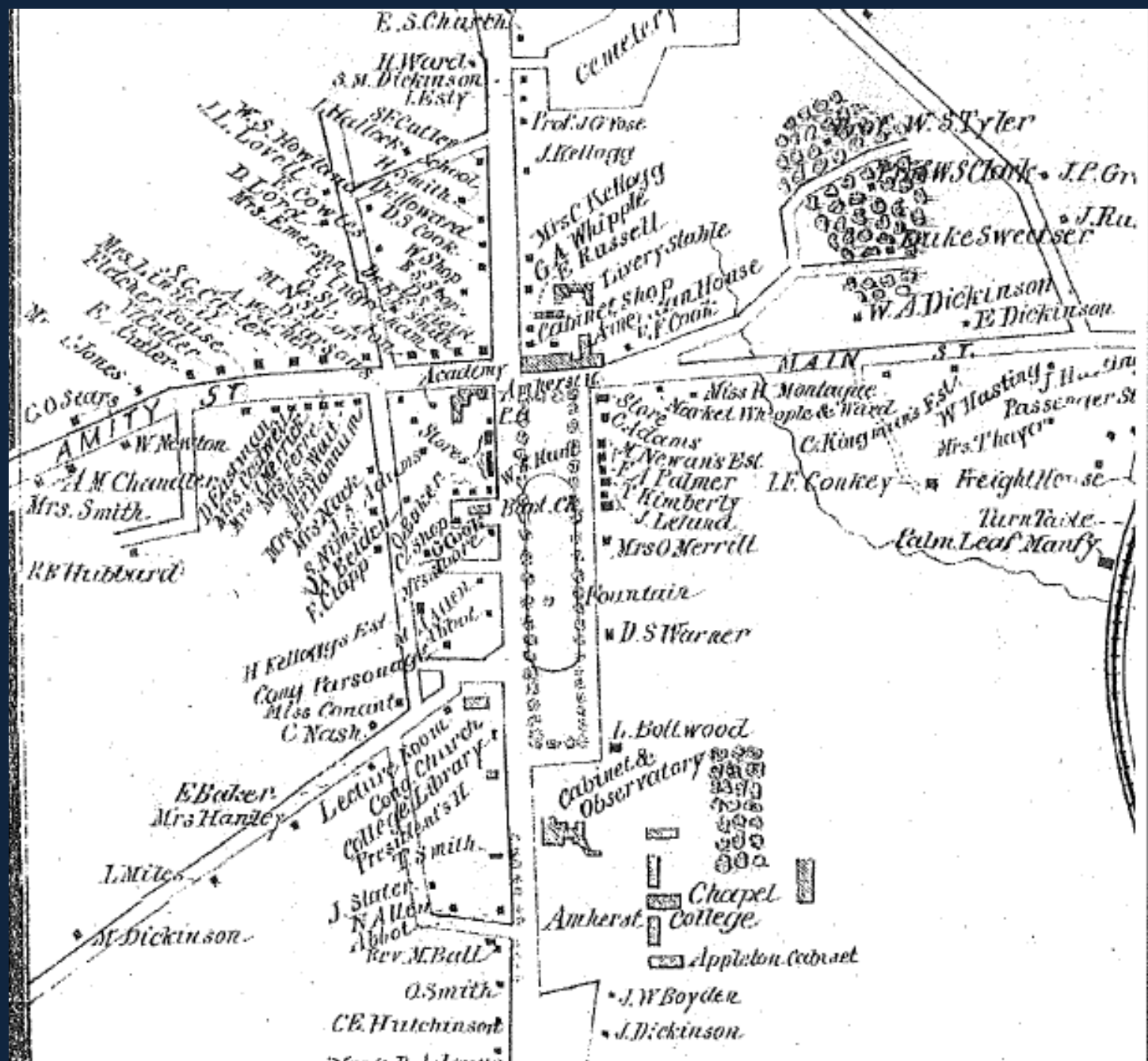
History of the Town Common

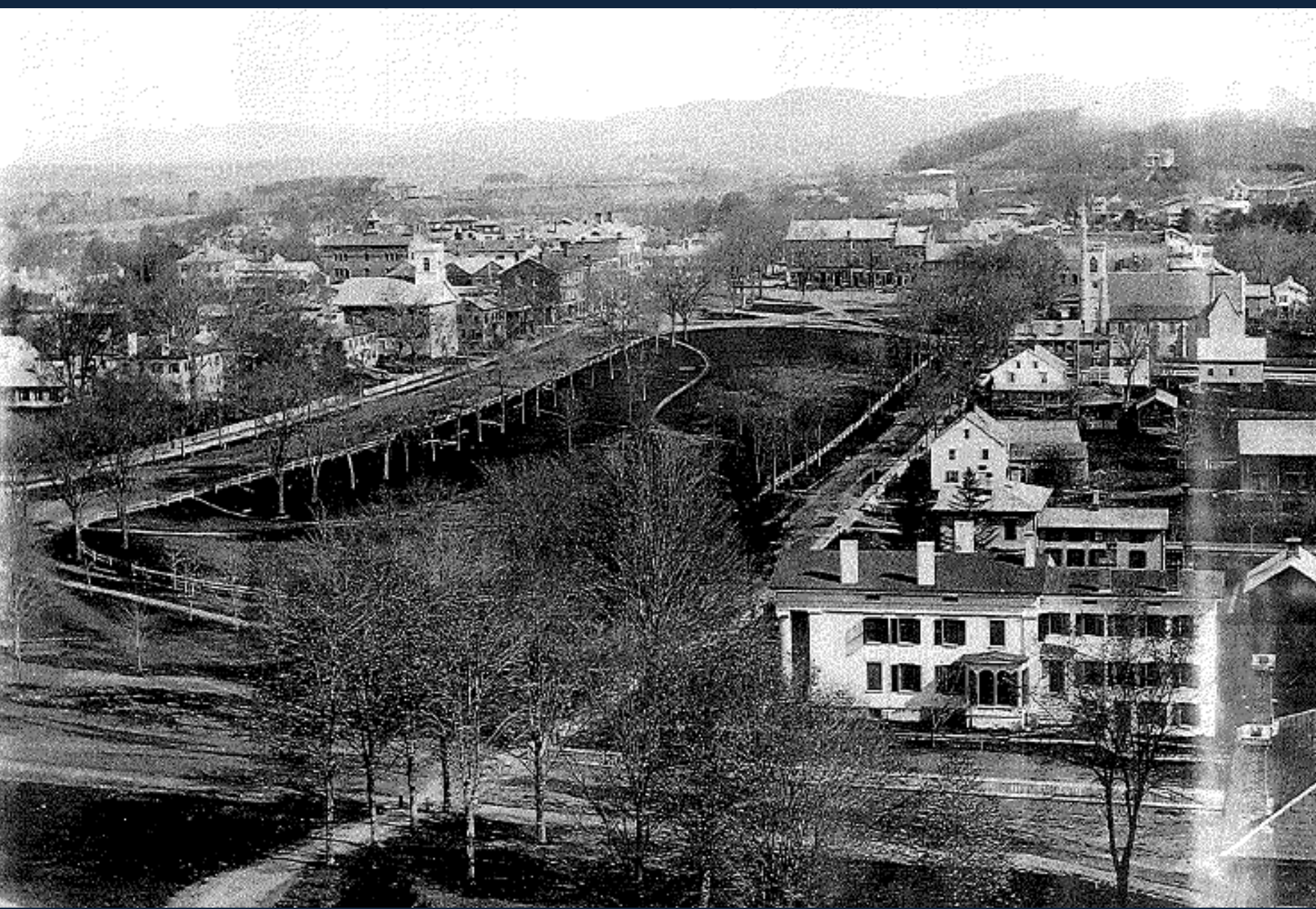
- Town Common is as old as Amherst
- Town Common is part of the road right of way and is not a piece of property
- Amherst Town Council has jurisdiction over the Town Common
- Many boards and committees are involved with maintenance and planning of the Common
- It is an original historic common, not a park, used for civic events and communal uses and gatherings
- The Town Common has been continually redesigned over the years to accommodate changing public needs

Ca. 1740 Map-Original Layout of Common From Bay Road to Mill River in North Amherst

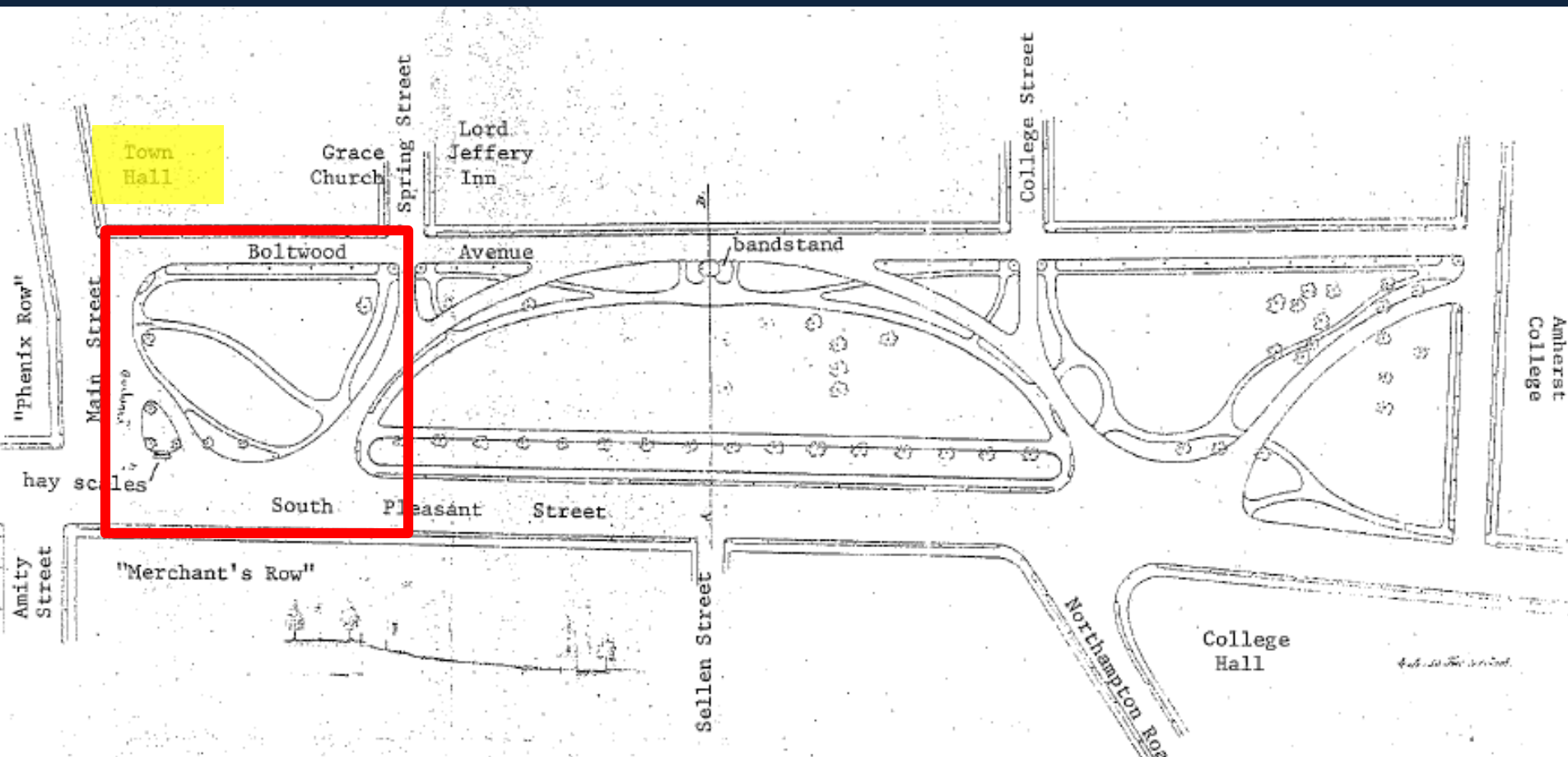


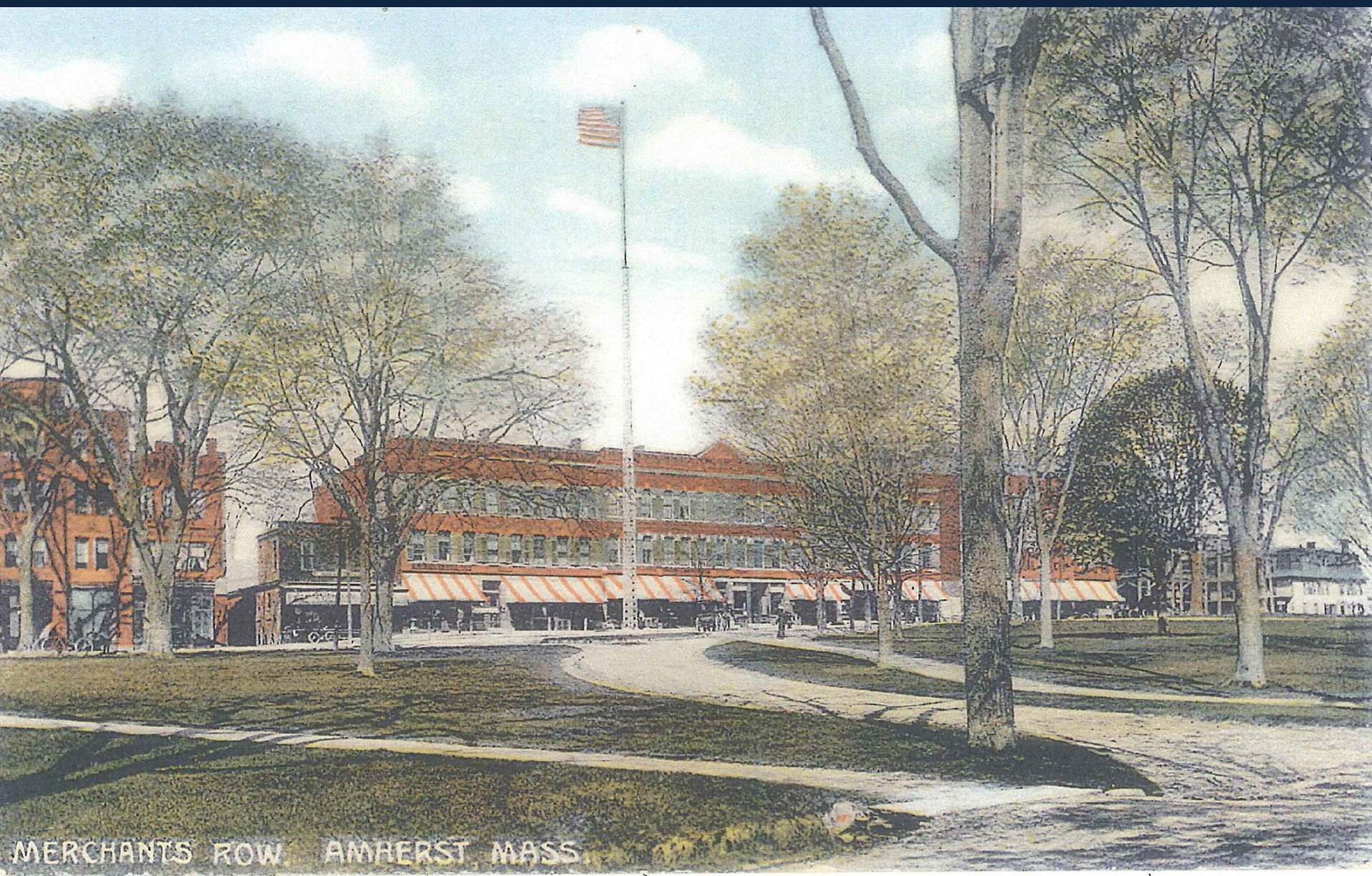
Ca. 1860 Map-Town Common





1874 Frederick Law Olmsted Design of Town Common





MERCHANTS ROW AMHERST, MASS.

The Common, Amherst, Mass.





Critically Important Space for Town Center

- North Common is:
 - Central to Downtown
 - An important Open Space
 - Used for weekly/monthly special occasions
 - Surrounded by local businesses
 - A key to revitalizing Downtown
 - Critical for economic development
 - Crucial to rebuilding Downtown post COVID-19



Issues that need to be solved

- Current conditions of the Common:
 - Historic site, including WCTU Fountain
 - Areas of poor drainage and no turf
 - Lack of accessibility
 - Limited pedestrian paths, seating, lighting and gathering spaces

Existing Conditions

- Limited pedestrian paths, seating, lighting and gathering spaces
- Lack of accessibility



Existing Conditions

- High pedestrian use
- Significant areas lacking turf and grass
- Poor drainage



Existing Conditions

- Deteriorating site amenities

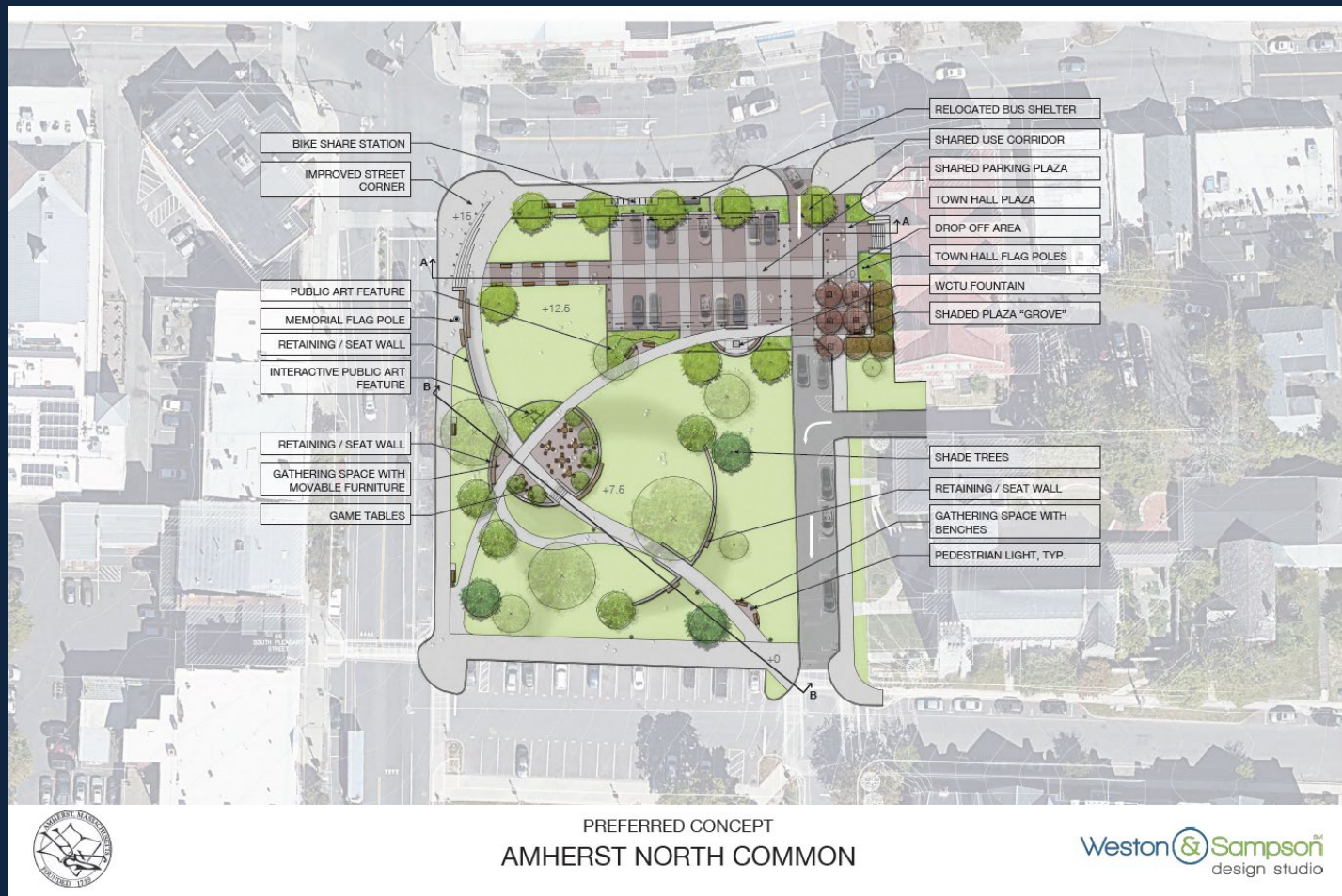


Concept Considerations

- Based on site assessment and past comments
- A key downtown space
- Used year-round
- An urban setting
- Preserve its historic character
- Pedestrians
- Accessibility and safety
- Amenities such as seating and lighting
- Drainage
- Gathering spaces



Weston & Sampson Preferred Concept Plan



Department of Public Works Revised Plan



Available Funds as of November 5, 2020

North Common & Main Street Parking Lot Project					
INCOME					
Historic Preservation CPAC Funds					
FY16			NORTH COMMON	\$	114,089.00
FY18			NORTH COMMON	\$	180,000.00
Recreation CPAC Funds					
FY16			NORTH COMMON	\$	76,059.00
FY18			NORTH COMMON	\$	180,000.00
SUB-TOTAL CPA FUNDING				\$	550,148.00
EXPENSES					
Weston & Sampson contract for design				\$	64,000.00
SUB-TOTAL EXPENSES				\$	64,000.00
REMAINING CPA BALANCE				\$	486,148.00
Annual Town Meeting - April 2018					
ARTICLE 15. Capital Program – Bond Authorization Transportation Fund					
			MAIN ST PARKING	\$	400,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET					\$886,148

Requested CPAC Funds

Historic Preservation & Recreation

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			REMAINING CPA BALANCE	\$	486,148.00
Annual Town Meeting - April 2018					
ARTICLE 15. Capital Program – Bond Authorization Transportation Fund					
			MAIN ST PARKING	\$	400,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE				\$	886,148.00
Request Historic CPAC Funds					\$250,000
Request Recreation CPAC Funds					\$250,000
Total Request from CPAC - FY22					\$500,000
PARC Grant - apply summer 2021					\$400,000
Private Fund Raising					\$200,000
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT					\$1,986,148

Thank you!

Questions?

